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Tilden's Day.

The birthday of Mr. TILDEN will be celebrated to-day by Democratic associations and gatherings in various parts of the country. Less than two years have passed since his death, but it is already evident that the anniversary of his birth is to be like JEFFERSON's and like JACKSON's, a saint's day of the Democracy.

As JEFFERSON asserted against Federalism, against the aristocratic ideas of Hamilton, and against English precedent and influence, the broad and vital principles of government by the people; as JACKSON renewed and reinforced those principles, and made them effective against moneyed monopoly; so did TILDEN bring them back into practice and show that, in spite of the demoralization produced by civil war and Republican rule, the nation was still willing to revert to the local self-government, and the honesty, economy, and strict regard for the Constitution that marked the most glorious days of the old Democracy.

The monstrous crime against free institutions, which deprived the whole country of the benefit of the wise reforms and that relentless integrity and unerring political judgment which characterized Mr. TILDEN's administration while Governor of New York, has not narrowed his fame or lessened the estimation in which he is held; but the contrary. He was the leader of the Democracy until the end of his life. The principles and the policies and the methods which he believed in, cannot be deviated from without the chastening consequences of disaster.

The lesson from Mr. TILDEN's career, of which his party seems now to stand in most need, is the importance of comprehensive and effective party government.

There are leaders possessing something of his genius, and capable of worthy imitating his successes; and there are others less capable, or else out of sympathy with the intrinsic methods and purposes of his political philosophy. It is for the masses of the intelligent and patriotic Democrats to choose between them; and the discourses and reflections of his birthday should be such as to aid in choosing to the best advantage.

The Truth of History.

We read with interest the columns of our esteemed contemporary, the *Troy Press*; but we have at last found there an expression with which it is impossible to wholly agree:

"Lincoln was a great man, and so was Grant."

About Mr. LINCOLN this is entirely true; but about Gen. GRANT it is only partly true. He had many admirable qualities, and in subduing the rebellion he did great things, which will not be forgotten; but he was probably the worst President that the United States has ever had. His disregard of the principles of personal liberty and personal honor was extreme; jobs and bribery and corruption flourished under him as it never flourished before; and we trust in God that it will never flourish again. Think of Boss SHEPHERD's swindles, of the Whiskey Ring, and of ROBERT GRANT's protection and encouragement of it.

He was a great and a fortunate soldier, but a great man he was not.

A Dangerous Neighbor.

Nothing could be more gratifying than the returns received by the Inter-State Commerce Commission from the various railroads of the country, and indicating their prompt and universal compliance with the terms of the Inter-State act. The general inference which may be drawn from these reports is that the railroads of the entire country have conformed to its regulations, and that our railroad system has profited by Federal regulation in a degree which is as gratifying as it was unexpected.

The feature of the Inter-State Commerce enactment which above all things commends it to the general approval of the public, as well as to investors in railroad stock, is the publicity of rates which it entails. Publicity of rates is an impregnable guarantee that the earnings of the railroads are no longer being divided between shippers and corrupt railroad officials in the form of rebates and concessions for mutual benefit, and that they will hereafter accrue to the stockholders. It is, unfortunately, too true that in many instances railroads have been the victims of collusion between corrupt managers and corrupt shippers. Revenues of considerable magnitude that have heretofore been diverted to private pockets now appear daily in the newspapers under the welcome and unwelcome heading of increases in gross earnings. Reviewing the practices in the line of rebates on many important American railroads during the last twenty years, and noting the great monopolies that have sprung into existence simultaneously with the acquisition of enormous private fortunes by the men who run the railroads, it is not surprising that the eminent litigator, Mr. JAMES McHENRY, should have accused certain railroads of "stealing with a gun." It is not surprising that it is trains which never appear in the schedules of the roads, and whose earnings never went into the balance sheet, but were divided between the shippers and the officials.

But if the Inter-State Commerce law is to be permitted to assume the aspect of a Federal act, conceived and executed in the interest of Canadian railroads, bankrupt and political, then it is better that it had never been enacted. It is perhaps an alarmist view that should lead any one to apprehend that Congress will not act promptly in the matter, but the Inter-State Commerce law by effective legislation that to comply with its provisions will not entail ruin on the American railroad, and at the same time confer prosperity upon its rival across the Canadian border. But Congress cannot move too quickly in the matter. Let the Canadian railroads confine their industries to their own territory, where they belong; they are busy with English capital, and with the money of the Canadian Government; they

are bankrupt on the one hand, and are sustained by Government subvention for political purposes on the other; and it will not do for the Congress of the United States to dower them with letters of marque to prey upon American commerce.

Has Bismarck Abandoned Turkey?

The allusions to the Eastern question in BISMARCK's great speech have naturally been weighed and scrutinized with peculiar interest in London, Vienna, and Budapest. Every word he uttered on the subject must be scanned with even keener anxiety in Constantinople, for were it possible to ascertain his real meaning, the fate of European Turkey might be easily foretold. Never, indeed, has even the Chancellor, with whose bluntness is a virtue, been so sincere than in the declaration that Germany would never plunge all Europe into war for the purpose of protecting the Bulgarians from Russian ascendancy. But they who are most deeply concerned to consider the consequences of such abstention will find themselves confronted by these alternatives: either Austria will be left to fight single-handed or with only Italy's assistance to save the Balkan peninsula, or else the Vienna Government will be morally constrained to arrange with Russia for an amiable partition of the Sultan's European empire.

There was nothing ambiguous in BISMARCK's language on the fundamental point. He regards all that has happened at Sofia and Philippopolis, since Prince ALEXANDER's annexation of Eastern Roumelia, as revolutionary and distinctly counter to the Berlin treaty. He is willing to see the former state of things restored, that is to say, a protégé of Russia reigning at Sofia, with pro-Russian officials in the civil administration, and Russian officers in control of the army. But, given such premises, Bismarck is not averse to the war. He has accepted the inevitable. The czar, though he protests against the absorption of Eastern Roumelia by an anti-Russian Bulgaria, would welcome such an increase of territory, once the principality were virtually in his hands. It is obvious, however, that Russia, firmly entrenched far to the south of the Balkans and with all the Balkan passes open to her armies, would possess precisely the coin of vantage and preponderance which she acquired at San Stefano, and from which it was the purpose of the Berlin Congress to dislodge her.

Now, it is as evident as daylight that ten years ago, that, unless equivalent concessions were simultaneously assured to Austria, that power will be materially injured by Russia's ascendancy at Sofia and Philippopolis. She would gradually lose control of other Slav subjects. It is true that the Vienna statesmen, at the time when they concluded their secret bargain with the St. Petersburg Government, seem to have thought of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an equivalent for Bulgaria, undervaluing the latter's strategic superiority on account of proximity to Constantinople. They have since awakened to the miscalculation, and at present they insist that an Austrian advance to Salonica ought to coincide with Russia's acquisition of the Balkan passes. Even such an extension to the Aegean would hardly counter-balance the importance to the czar of the opportunity of seizing Constantinople at will. But it would probably enable Austria to annex Servia, consolidate the southwestern Slavs under her sway, and postpone, at all events, the disintegration of her empire. We may add that, when the Austrian dominion had been pushed forward to Salonica, Albania, thenceforth cut off from the mortal remnant of the Sultan's European possessions, would naturally fall to Italy.

But, Austria having endeavored to cheat the czar in the matter of Bosnia, whatever bargain is now made through the influence of BISMARCK between the three powers primarily interested in Turkey, will have to be forthwith carried out and made irrevocable. With any such end in view Russia would be well advised in massing so powerful an army on her southwestern border as to render a resort to chicanery upon the part of the Vienna statesmen impracticable. It is just this at which BISMARCK seems to be hinting, when he justifies Russia's military preparations on the ground that she is expecting another outbreak of crisis and desires to be in readiness to make her rights respected.

In fine, BISMARCK's position in relation to the Eastern question may apparently be thus defined: He says to Austria, We will not help you to fight for Bulgaria, and if you deem that country of great strategic value, I advise you to bargain with the czar for an equivalent. On the other hand, he says to Russia, You are quite right to remember the traditional HAPSBURG duplicity, and to take precautions against being tricked a second time.

Let the Organs Go for Him!

Mr. HEWITT has made a good many brilliant speeches this winter, especially at public dinners, and the last one has not received all the attention which it seems to deserve. This speech was delivered before the alumni of the University Medical College, and the passage which is most worthy of analysis and observation is Mr. HEWITT's declaration that "the Mayor does not expect to be a candidate for Mayor or Governor."

While Mr. HEWITT thus renounces beforehand the two most important offices of the Empire State, and declines to be a candidate for Mayor of New York City, or for Governor of this mighty commonwealth, he says nothing about the Presidency. Accordingly, that is a promotion which we are to understand he does not refuse in advance of the nominating convention.

Well, Mr. HEWITT has gained immensely in public estimation since he has been Mayor, and no one can say that he has lost anything at any point; nor can it be affirmed that, if the Democracy should nominate him for President, he would prove either a weak or a doubtful candidate.

And now let the Mugwumps, the Free Traders, and the Chicagoan Republicans turn loose their noisy old batteries against Brother HEWITT. He is disorderly; he has ideas of his own; he is dangerous!

Their Duty to Science.

We sincerely trust the able lot of pedestrians, who are now so intensely engaged in practising their profession, fully understand their responsibility as public performers. There is a public trust. The fact that this is entitled a "go-as-you-please" race does not mean that it is to be gone for pleasure, but neither is it for money or for victory only. It is for science, and it is to the scientific side of their obligations to the public that we would call the walkers' attention.

What the public most wants to know is, how far a man can go in 142 hours. We know already that he can go 610 miles. We have seen him do it; but his ability to go further is a question of high interest to every one, directly or indirectly affected by the contemporary knowledge of human powers. These remarks are especially intended for the man, if there be such, who on Friday night finds himself within sight of the record and so far ahead that he is sure to win.

Don't let him pass up. Let him push on.

Let the record all be can. One mile after it will give him the extra prize just as well as twenty; but if he can, he should make forty more. Just think of it, 650 miles in six days! Don't measure your strides by money, then. Let your motto be, "One more mile for science, however hopelessly for dollars; and so, on to the glorious end!"

Too Much Sand.

The *Chicago Tribune* prints an interview with Judge WALTER G. GRESHAM, in which he gives his idea of the qualifications of a good Judge, namely, "Modesty, knowledge, discernment, integrity, health, and sand." And by no means the least of these in Judge GRESHAM's opinion is "sand."

All these qualifications of a good Judge, Gen. GRESHAM possesses, and they are qualifications of a good President also, although they do not include all the requisites necessary to make a good President.

In this same interview Judge GRESHAM declines to think, or at least to bother himself, about the Presidency. He says he doesn't want to undergo the agony of "destroyed hope or ambition." Moreover, he thinks a Judge should attend to the business of a Judge and not "connive to get something better."

The Republican party will probably be willing to admit that Judge GRESHAM has the qualifications he imputes to a good Judge, and full qualifications for the Presidency. But it is a question if he has not too much "sand" to please the men who will control the next Republican nomination.

The One-Term Idea.

To our question as to what authority any newspaper has for assuming that President CLEVELAND would accept a renomination under any circumstances whatever, the *New Haven Register* replies, "The common sense of the Democratic party."

This does not appear to be a good answer. Is it common sense to suppose that after voluntarily declaring himself in favor of a Constitutional amendment making the one-term rule compulsory in the case of all future Presidents, Mr. CLEVELAND could deliberately make an exception in his own favor, and go in for a second term for himself, regardless of his distinctly proclaimed notions of patriotism and duty?

Moreover, do our friends regard such a supposition as complimentary to Mr. CLEVELAND? It seems to us to be almost an insult to him.

We do not believe that the President is either the most conceited politician of the century, or the most selfishly ambitious.

Now, look here, esteemed SUX. Whom are you for? Mr. CLEVELAND, HEWITT, or COLUMBIA?—*Anti-Mugwump American*.

We are for the candidate of the United Democracy, and for the nomination of Mr. CLEVELAND for the greatest possible latitude and frankness in discussing the various leaders whose qualifications as candidates for the Presidency have to be considered. Do you understand?

Governor HILL will address the Democracy of Brooklyn this evening in his celebration of Mr. TILDEN's birthday.

The *Kansas City Journal* declares that several of the American diplomats who have gone to Mexico got tipsy on pulque; and this is an assertion without evidence. Pulque is a sourish, milky, fermented drink, unpleasant at the first taste, but which, if taken in moderation, is not less satisfactory than small beer. The beverages of all lands are also to be found in Mexico; and we don't believe any Yankee diplomat has ever really gone too far with the native product. Besides, it must be very nasty to get drunk on pulque.

The renomination of Presidents is not a Democratic principle.—*Albany Times*.

It is also against Mr. CLEVELAND's pronounced principles. Upon that point the President's Democracy is of the purest quality.

The missionary in Africa who has just reported that some of the boys in his young school can repeat by heart "125 questions and answers from the shorter catechism, the Ten Commandments, and most of the bestitudes," will be sure to give his pupils a good deal of trouble, more theological nourishment than they could well assimilate in the few months they have been under his tuition. It is doubtful if this worthy man will accomplish as much in the long run as other missionaries like those on Lake Tanganyika, who have thought it best to teach the natives to read and write, and to instill in their minds some desire for better houses and food, instead of bewildering them with exhortations and Bible texts. Before the average pagan acquires a few elementary facts of a civilizing nature it is hardly worth while to make a theologian of him.

Look out for Postman PETER PANCROT.

We recall a schedule which he made out for himself some years back for one of these six-day races, and it summed up 640 miles. He has just about kept it so far.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIR: Why "weak" Godkin keep up such a racket over a "weak" man like Blaine? Does he protest and wail? Did we not have an affidavit from the Owl, the Opbidian, and the Jackal that Fellow was a weak man last November? Was it not an affidavit of "Larry" Jones, and Judge Allen to us last fall for weak?

I now believe that Hill can carry New York, and I am sure that Cleveland cannot. This free trade business is just too much for us to shoulder. It strikes at our very ears, and it is a deadly enemy. We have, as you say, a new candidate, and now comes Henry George! Alas! too, too late the loud must be shifted. New York, Ind., Feb. 6.

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Yonkers Comes to the Aid of Ireland.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIR: Knowing your sympathy with the cause of persecuted Ireland, I thought I might interest yourself and your readers to know that a public meeting was held in Yonkers, N. Y., on Friday, Feb. 4, at which a resolution was adopted to send a committee to the United States Congress to urge the passage of a bill for the relief of the Irish National League. The expenses for printing and stationery amounted to \$0.70, leaving a balance of \$0.70, which, through the generosity of the Rev. Anthony Kelly, has been forwarded to the treasurer of the Irish National League, the Rev. Chas. O'Reilly, of Detroit, for transmission to the Irish side of the water. Let not the readers of the Sun imagine that this effort is the best we are capable of making, for we have done better in the past and hope to do better in the future, and should the Sun start a subscription, as it did before, I do not think that Yonkers will be found last in the race for the honor of serving Ireland.

Yonkers, Feb. 2.

One Man With Ten Grandparents.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIR: I would like to read the head of "Buckeye" in today's edition, in regard to the clerk in Dayton, Ind., is not a common occurrence? My son is as old as I am, and he has ten grandparents, two grandfathers, two grandmothers, two great-grandfathers, and two great-grandmothers. I am, I am, I am.

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THE KANSAS CITY CONFERENCE.

Considering the Methods Proposed for Settling the Indian Title to the Lands of the State.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Delegates to the number of about a hundred from Western States and Territories are to meet this week in Kansas City for the purpose of discussing the opening of Indian Territory. In many ways this question strongly appeals to Congress. First, it is necessary to definitely fix the status of the Oklahoma region. Several years ago Congress took steps for purchasing from the Creeks and Seminoles their remaining claims on this tract, consisting only of the right to have it occupied by Indians instead of white settlers, for the title to the Oklahoma lands had been bought of the Indians by the Government. But they have declined to negotiate for this purpose, but the votes in their councils were close, and they may already have changed their minds.

All these questions of the future of the Oklahoma region, or of any other tract of land, are of great importance to the Government, and they are of great importance to the people. The Government is now in a position to acquire a large tract of land, and it is necessary to decide whether to do so, and if so, on what terms. The Government is now in a position to acquire a large tract of land, and it is necessary to decide whether to do so, and if so, on what terms.

The railroad question is equally urgent. One road is to run into the heart of Oklahoma. At the second session of the Forty-ninth Congress, the right of way through the Indian Territory was given to the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railway Company. The Kansas and Arkansas Valley road already runs through the Territory, and the Chicago and North Western Railway Company is now in a position to acquire a large tract of land, and it is necessary to decide whether to do so, and if so, on what terms.

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THE ADIRONDACK LANDS.

Lively Comments on Senate Pending Bills Relating to State Property.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIR: Will you let a little sunlight on some bills before the Legislature concerning the Adirondacks? "To sell detached parcels of State lands." One acre or one hundred acres of timbered land will absorb and retain just as much moisture as it would if attached to other State lands. The cost of its care is no more. The State may eventually become the owner of the timbered land, and that would attach it to other State lands. There is no reason why detached parcels of land should be sold. If this bill should become law it would be surprising how much valuable timbered land owned by the State would be "detached parcels."

If this bill should become law, it is a short time before the most valuable timber now owned by the State would disappear. The land would be burned over for forest fire will follow the lumberman and become practically worthless. This bill, in my opinion, is nothing more than a scheme to get the State out of the timber business, and to get the State out of the timber business, and to get the State out of the timber business.

I have never known a lumberman anywhere in the vicinity of a State lot that he would not steal all the timber he could get. If a man has a right to cut one stick of timber on State land, he would cut it all. If the Commissioners were authorized to sell any timber on State lands there would be a great deal of timber cut, and the State would be out of the timber business.

The State is in a good condition financially, thanks to a wise and economical Democratic administration. It is not necessary to sell the timber on State lands to get the State out of the timber business. The State is in a good condition financially, thanks to a wise and economical Democratic administration.

The lumbermen take only the best. A log of a tree is worth more than a stump. The lumbermen take only the best. A log of a tree is worth more than a stump. The lumbermen take only the best. A log of a tree is worth more than a stump.

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